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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## TAC attack begins

*By 1st Lt. Catherine Kerfont*

STURGIS, S.D. – The regimental commander of the 196<sup>th</sup> Regional Training Institute (RTI), Col. James Ross, kicked off Phase One of the consolidated Officer Candidate School (OCS) on June 1 with an opening ceremony at historic Fort Meade, S.D.

Officer candidates attending the training come from all over the United States and Guam. The goal of OCS is to teach leadership skills and train Soldiers to become the future leaders of the Army.

Upon commencement of the opening ceremony, the officer candidates were introduced to their train assess and counsel (TAC) officers. In an enthusiastic roar, they yelled, “HOOAH!” in response to the upcoming challenge.

Immediately, TAC officers swarmed the candidate’s and overwhelmed them with tactical questions. This situation tests the candidate’s ability to work under pressure by creating an environment of confusion and intense physical activity.

Amongst the chaos, candidates were exposed to their first taste of situational awareness, accountability, attention to detail and decision making in a stressful environment. Behind the TAC madness, there is a method, according to First Platoon TAC Officer Capt. Tracey Heiser.

“This is the only way we can stress a combat environment during training,” said Heiser. “Enforcing attention to detail and situational awareness keeps your Soldiers alive!”

OCS is a three-phase course that lasts approximately eight weeks. The first phase includes many hours of classroom training on basic military tasks including physical training, drill and ceremony as well as troop leading procedures. There are 126 candidates currently training in South Dakota’s 53rd OCS Class.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753 or 1st Lt. Catherine Kerfont at (605) 415-1327.

**Photo Cut Line:**



**080601-A-5202T-195:** STURGIS, S.D. – A train assess and counsel (TAC) officer drills a Soldier over procedures for combat situations during Officer Candidate School (OCS) on June 1 at Fort Meade, S.D. OCS will provide these Soldiers with the necessary leadership skills required to operate in a stressful environment. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

Link to Photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/080601-A-5202T-195.jpg>